

**Amendment to the Claims**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Cancel claims 1, 2, 3 and 4.

5. (Currently amended) A sliding door latch assembly comprising a vertically extended housing having a vertically extended major portion, a pull handle opposing said housing major portion, a latch mounted within said housing major portion and shiftable to and from said housing for locking a sliding door to a cooperating keeper mounted in a sliding door jamb opposite said latch, a rotary actuator within said housing major portion for shifting said latch, a hand operated lever rotatably mounted to said housing beyond said housing major portion, said lever being linked from beyond said housing major portion to said rotary actuator within said housing major portion for rotatably actuating said latch by said rotatable lever from beyond said housing major portion, whereby hand actuation of the lever and latch is free of interference from said pull handle, said rotary actuator comprising a rotatable latch plate, said latch plate and said latch being mounted to a common pivot for rotation together responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever.

6. (Original) The sliding door latch according to claim 5, in which said lever further comprises a rotatable lever plate, said lever plate and said lever being mounted to a common pivot for rotation together responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said

lever, said lever plate and said latch plate being rigidly coupled such that rotation of the lever plate causes a like rotation in said latch plate and said latch.

7. (Previously Presented) The sliding door latch according to claim 6, including also a pair of bars having first ends movably fixed to said lever plate in diametrically opposed relation, said bars having second ends movably fixed to said latch plate in diametrically opposed relation, said bars extending between said lever plate and said latch plate and arranged to transmit rotary movement of said lever plate to said latch plate.

8. (Previously Presented) The sliding door latch according to claim 7, in which said bars are of a length to extend from within said housing major portion to beyond said housing locus.

9. (Original) The sliding door latch according to claim 8, in which said latch is hook-shaped and said cooperating keeper comprises a slot.

10. (Original) The sliding door latch according to claim 9, in which said housing is rectangular in cross-section and comprises front, rear and side walls, said front wall being slotted to pass said latch in shifting relation to and from said keeper, said side walls supporting said latch assembly.

11. (Original) The sliding door latch according to claim 10, in which said pull handle

is an inside handle, and including also an outside handle fixed to said housing.

12. (Original) The sliding door latch according to claim 11, including also a sliding door having a leading stile, said leading stile defining said housing.

Cancel claims 13-18.

19. (Currently amended) A sliding door latch assembly comprising a vertically extended housing having a major vertically extended portion, a vertically disposed pull handle opposing said housing major portion, a latch mounted within said housing major portion and shiftable to and from said housing for locking a sliding door to a cooperating keeper mounted in a sliding door jamb opposite said latch, a rotary actuator within said housing major portion for shifting said latch, a hand-operated lever rotatably mounted to said housing beyond said housing major portion, said rotary actuator comprising a rotatable latch plate arranged for rotation responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever, a linkage extending from said rotary actuator within said housing major portion to said lever beyond said housing major portion for rotatably actuating said latch by said lever, whereby hand actuation of the lever and latch is free of interference from said pull handle said lever further comprising a rotatable lever plate arranged for rotation responsive to actuation of said latch plate by said lever, said lever plate and said latch plate being coupled such that rotation of the lever plate causes rotation of said latch plate and said latch.

20. (Previously Presented) The sliding door latch according to claim 19, including also a pair of bars movably fixed to and extending between said lever plate and said latch plate, said bars being arranged to transmit rotary movement of said lever plate to said latch plate.

21. (Previously Presented) The sliding door latch according to claim 20, in which said bars are generally parallel, said lever plate defines a bar between said bars of said bar pair, and said latch plate defines a further bar between said bars of said bar pair are of a length to extend from within said housing major portion to beyond said housing.